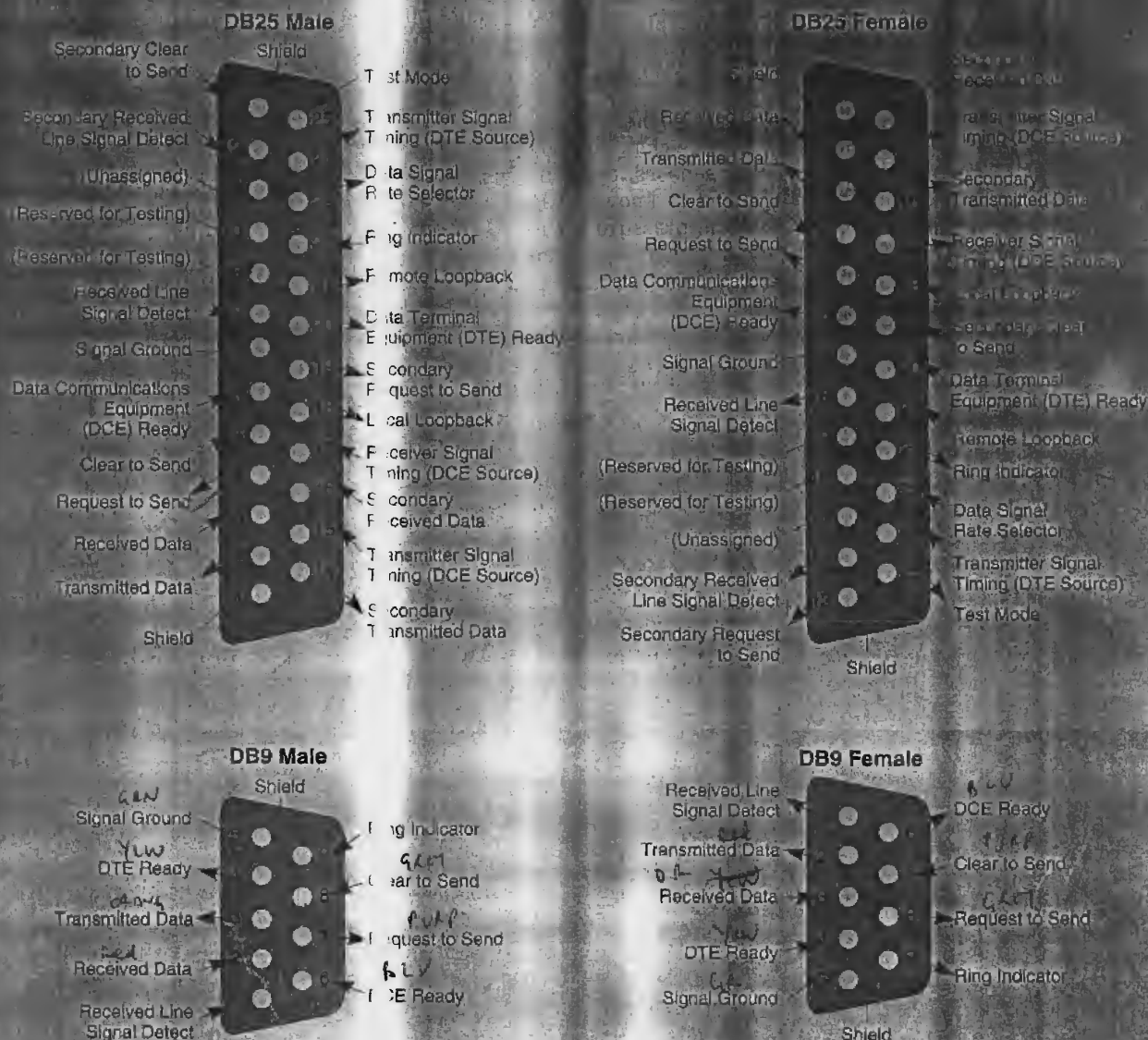# Pin Designations

Although the Universal Serial Bus and the Fire Wire connections now get more coverage, computers still depend more on the basic (and old) serial port and parallel port to communicate with peripherals. Even though these ports are widespread, finding the pin designations for them can take considerable time. The figures below show the pin designations for both the 25-pin and 9-pin serial ports. The designations for the 25-pin serial connector includes the signals described in the original RS-232 specifications, even though most modern computers do not use them. We've also provided a table for the 25-pin parallel port found on PCs.

An ASCII conversion chart completes this section. Even though we now use advanced protocols to transfer data across communication services such as the Internet, we still end up using ASCII encoding to represent the symbols we humans use daily for written communication.

RS-232C* Pin Designations

DB25 Male

Shield

Secondary Clear to Send
Secondary Received Line Signal Detect
(Unassigned)
(Reserved for Testing)
(Reserved for Testing)
Received Line Signal Detect
Signal Ground
Data Communications Equipment (DCE) Ready
Clear to Send
Request to Send
Received Data
Transmitted Data
Shield

Test Mode
Transmitter Signal Timing (DTE Source)
Data Signal Rate Selector
Ring Indicator
Remote Loopback
Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) Ready
Secondary Request to Send
Local Loopback
Receiver Signal Timing (DCE Source)
Secondary Received Data
Transmitter Signal Timing (DCE Source)
Secondary Transmitted Data

DB25 Female

Shield

Received Data
Transmitted Data
Clear to Send
Request to Send
Data Communication Equipment (DCE) Ready
Signal Ground
Received Line Signal Detect
(Reserved for Testing)
(Reserved for Testing)
(Unassigned)
Secondary Received Line Signal Detect
Secondary Request to Send

Received Data
Transmitter Signal Timing (DCE Source)
Secondary Transmitted Data
Receiver Signal Timing (DCE Source)
Local Loopback
Secondary Request to Send
Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) Ready
Remote Loopback
Ring Indicator
Data Signal Rate Selector
Transmitter Signal Timing (DTE Source)
Test Mode
Shield

DB9 Male

Shield

Signal Ground
DTE Ready
Transmitted Data
Received Data
Received Line Signal Detect

Ring Indicator
Clear to Send
Request to Send
DCE Ready

DB9 Female

Received Line Signal Detect
Transmitted Data
Received Data
DTE Ready
Signal Ground
Shield

DCE Ready
Clear to Send
Request to Send
Ring Indicator

*Also known as EIA-232